



Clearwater County

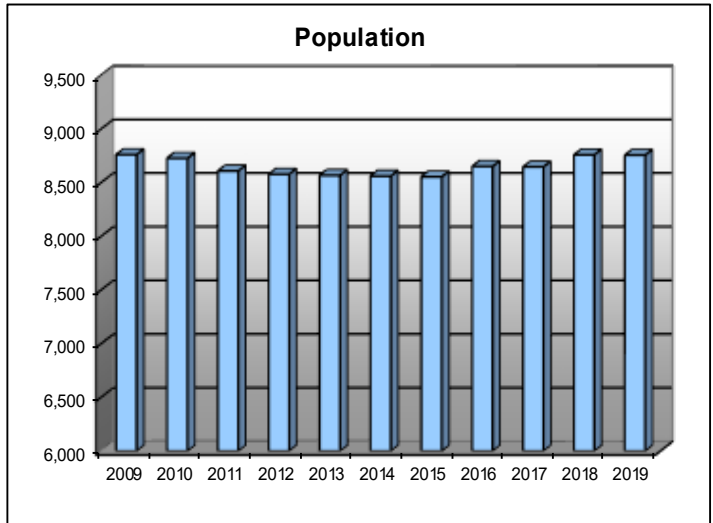
IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

September 2020

Workforce Trends

Population

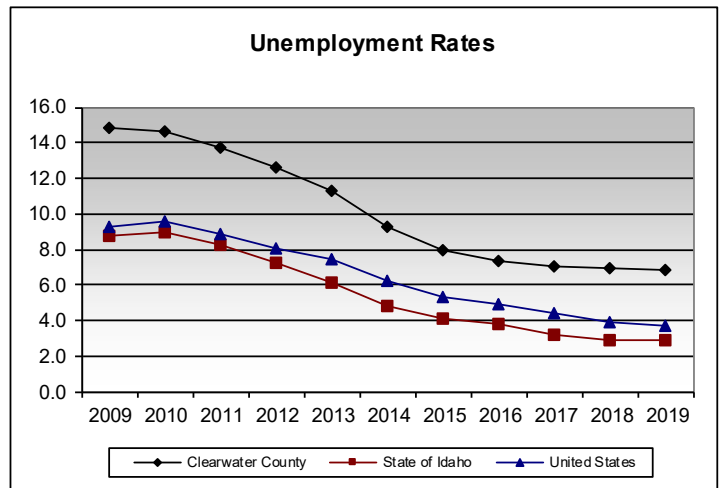
The timber boom of the 1970s boosted county population to 10,871 by 1980. It fell sharply as two recessions forced mills to close and loggers to lose jobs. The county began to add jobs after 1990, allowing the population to grow to 8,930 by 2000. Then, Potlatch Corp. closed the Jaype mill near Pierce, and population fell to 8,788 by 2007. Over the next 10 years, it fell to 8,574 in 2013. Since 2013 the county's population has seen a steady increase to 8,756 in 2019, only 5 less than 10 years earlier. The long-term loss of young families made the county's population one of the oldest in Idaho. The county seat, Orofino, had a population of 3,099 in 2019, while Pierce had 590, Weippe 444, and Elk River 122.



Labor Force & Employment

The long-term decline in the forest products industry has taken a toll on the county. In Or 2016, the county lost its last major mill when the Tri Pro Cedar mill near Orofino closed, putting 55 people out of work. The loss of its major industry made the county more reliant on government jobs—including the state mental hospital and correctional institute, which provide 230 jobs; the Army Corps of Engineers (40 jobs); federal and tribal fish hatcheries (100 jobs); the U.S. Forest Service (60 jobs); and the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy (50 jobs) in Pierce.

Economic development groups work to diversify the county's industry base. Orofino built an industrial park was built in Orofino more than 15 years ago. Architectural Signs and Engraving Inc. was the first tenant. SJX Boats opened a plant there a few years later and the building is being expanded to allow SJX to grow. Nightforce Optics



moved to Orofino 16 years ago and now employs more than 100 people making high-quality rifle scopes.

Tourists come to enjoy hunting, fishing, and boating and earn about the area's role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Idaho's first major gold rush. The tourism sector has grown significantly over the last 20 years.

The county often has the highest unemployment rate among Idaho's 44 counties, because of its high seasonal pattern and the long-term decline in forest products jobs.

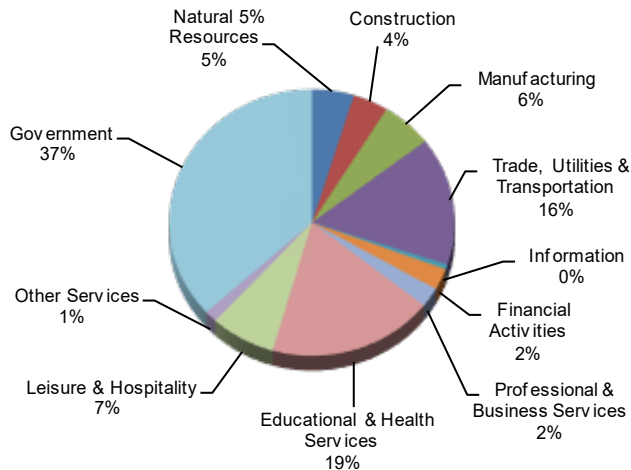
Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	2,944	3,040
Total Employment	2,740	2,833
Unemployed	204	207
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.9	6.8
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	3,523	3,423	3,356	3,272	3,188	3,130	3,084	3,055	3,006	2,916	2,905
Unemployment	522	501	459	412	360	290	243	223	211	202	197
% of Labor Force Unemployed	14.8	14.6	13.7	12.6	11.3	9.3	7.9	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.8
Employment	3,001	2,922	2,897	2,860	2,828	2,840	2,841	2,832	2,795	2,714	2,708

Prepared by Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist, Idaho Department of Labor • 1158 Idaho St., Lewiston, Idaho 83501-1960

Phone: (208) 799-5000, ext. 3984 • email: kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov • Labor Market Information website: lmi.idaho.gov

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Economic Development

Clearwater County has struggled with high unemployment and low per capita income for decades. In 2018, its per capita income was \$34,506, while the state's was \$43,901 and the nation's was \$54,446.

Clearwater County Economic Development and local officials are making efforts to strengthen and diversify the economy. They are working to improve Internet access, provide advice to businesses wishing to expand or move there, and remove barriers to economic development.

Major Employers

Clearwater County
 Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinic
 Idaho Correctional Institution
 Nightforce Optics (manufacturer)
 Orofino Joint School District 171
 State Hospital North
 Tri-Pro Forest Products
 U.S. Forest Service

North Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$14.82	\$19.52
Carpenters	\$15.70	\$24.76
Cashiers	\$9.11	\$10.89
Janitors & Cleaners	\$10.27	\$13.50
Logging Equipment Operators	\$23.80	\$27.28
Office Clerks, General	\$10.51	\$15.87
Registered Nurses	\$23.86	\$33.02
Retail Salespersons	\$9.48	\$13.45
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$12.40	\$16.30
Security Guards	\$9.81	\$12.94
Teachers, Elementary	\$31,479	\$47,405
Teachers, Secondary	\$36,713	\$49,451
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$16.75	\$27.01

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	2,903	\$29,613	2,616	\$37,303	2,584	\$38,735
Agriculture	192	\$34,571	176	\$51,085	160	\$53,231
Mining	0	\$0	**	**	**	\$0
Construction	151	\$33,381	86	\$40,400	102	\$47,542
Manufacturing	219	\$30,994	170	\$31,843	147	\$31,849
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	379	\$26,181	392	\$40,384	396	\$41,828
Information	21	\$24,241	14	\$53,215	15	\$51,985
Financial Activities	67	\$25,291	65	\$27,429	66	\$29,529
Professional and Business Services	84	\$19,125	68	\$31,067	60	\$31,354
Educational and Health Services	490	\$29,645	482	\$36,489	475	\$37,621
Leisure and Hospitality	212	\$11,093	195	\$13,200	187	\$13,938
Other Services	38	\$17,616	39	\$31,781	36	\$33,397
Government	1,051	\$34,491	910	\$40,507	923	\$41,465

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Clearwater County	\$28,482	\$28,974	\$29,987	\$30,014	\$30,939	\$31,650	\$33,057	\$33,130	\$33,881	\$34,506
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis